Promotion of ECO Tourism

2288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is fast growivg in the world;

(b) if so, what action plan the Ministry of tourism have to promote eco-tourism in India;

(c) whether any States/areas/spots have been identified by the Ministry to provide eco-tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of States/areas/spots so identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Tourism Policy lays emphasis on promotion of eco-tourism. Ministry of Tourism has been providing Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure including eco-tourism projects in States and Union Territories based on project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Some of the State Governments like Sikkim, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have implemented unique Eco-tourism projects in their States with Central Financial Assistance from Ministry of Tourism. The following sites have been identified/sanctioned for the development of eco tourism during 2004-05:

(i) Eco Tourism Development at Bhimband (Munger), Bihar for Rs.370.00 lakhs

(ii) Eco Tourism Development Valmiki Nagar (West Champaran), Bihar for Rs.407.20 lakhs.

(iii) Integrated Development of Eco Tourism at Point Calimere Wild Life Sanctuary, Muthupet, Tamil Nadu for Rs.368.00 lakhs.

Rebuilding of Tourism Resorts in the Eastern Coast

2289. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any attempt to assess the damage caused by Tsunami calamity to tourism infrastructure in the eastern coastline of India;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any crash-programme for re-building the tourism resorts in the eastern coast damaged by Tsunami waves;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise a part of the Tsunami relief fund/aid for re-building the tourism infrastructure alongwith affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The development of infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. The Ministry of Tourism assists State Governments/Union Territories by providing Central financial assistance for tourism projects and infrastructure based on specific proposals submitted by the State Governments/Union Territories.

A Core Group constituted by the Government, functioning in the Planning Commission is looking into the long term plans for rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged in the recent Tsunami.

Talks with representatives of Agricultural sector

2290. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited and held talks with representatives of agricultural sector to ascertain their point of view regarding the budget 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the representatives have suggested that provisions should be made in the budget for increasing employment opportunities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.